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covalent bond with the superabsorbent particles, and at least one functional group capable of forming a hydrogen bond with the cellulose fiber;

combining superabsorbent particles having a hydrogen or a coordinate covalent bonding functional site with the binder-containing cellulose fiber; and

binding the superabsorbent particles to the binder-containing cellulose fiber.

~~57.~~² The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the nonpolymeric organic binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1 to 25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~58.~~³ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the cellulose fiber comprises wood pulp fiber.

~~59.~~⁴ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the functional groups of the nonpolymeric binder are hydroxyl functional groups.

~~61.~~⁵ The method of Claim ~~59~~⁴, wherein the binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1-25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~62.~~⁶ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binder is a diol.

~~64.~~⁷ The method of Claim ~~62~~⁶, wherein the binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1-25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~65.~~⁸ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binder is propylene glycol.

~~67.~~⁹ The method of Claim ~~65~~⁸, wherein the binder is present on the cellulose fiber in an amount ranging from 1-25% by weight based on the weight of the cellulose fiber.

~~68.~~¹¹ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binding step is carried out at a temperature less than 150°C.

~~69.~~¹² The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the combining step comprises adding superabsorbent particles in an amount ranging from 1-80% by weight of the total weight of the superabsorbent particles and cellulose fiber.

~~70.~~¹³ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the combining step comprises adding superabsorbent particles in an amount ranging from 3-40% by weight of the total weight of the superabsorbent particles and cellulose fiber.

~~71.~~¹⁴ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binder is trimethylene glycol.

~~72.~~¹⁵ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binder is ethylene glycol.

~~73.~~¹⁷ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binder is dipropylene glycol.

~~74.~~¹⁸ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binder is butylene glycol.

~~75.~~¹⁹ The method of Claim ~~55~~¹, wherein the binder is 2,3-butane diol.

~~76.~~¹⁰ The method of Claim ~~65~~⁸, wherein the cellulose fiber comprises wood pulp fiber.

~~77.~~¹⁶ The method of Claim ~~72~~¹⁵, wherein the cellulose fiber comprises wood pulp fiber.

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